

## **Bishop J. W. Hood, D.D., LL.D.**

**A. M. E. Zion Church**

**Residence: Fayetteville, N. C.**

JAMES WALKER HOOD was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, May 30, 1831. His parents were among the thirteen families that founded a separate Colored Methodist Church in Wilmington, Del. He was one of twelve children.

He was taken by a Jackson family, on verbal agreement that he should work for "food, clothing, and six weeks' schooling annually until he was sixteen years old." The Jackson family soon after retired from business and the young man grew up with limited educational advantages. He at one time escaped from an attempt to kidnap him and press him into slavery.

He was converted at the age of eleven, at twenty-five he was licensed to preach, and in 1859, at the age of twenty-eight, he was received into the New England Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. In 1860 he was sent as a missionary to Nova Scotia.

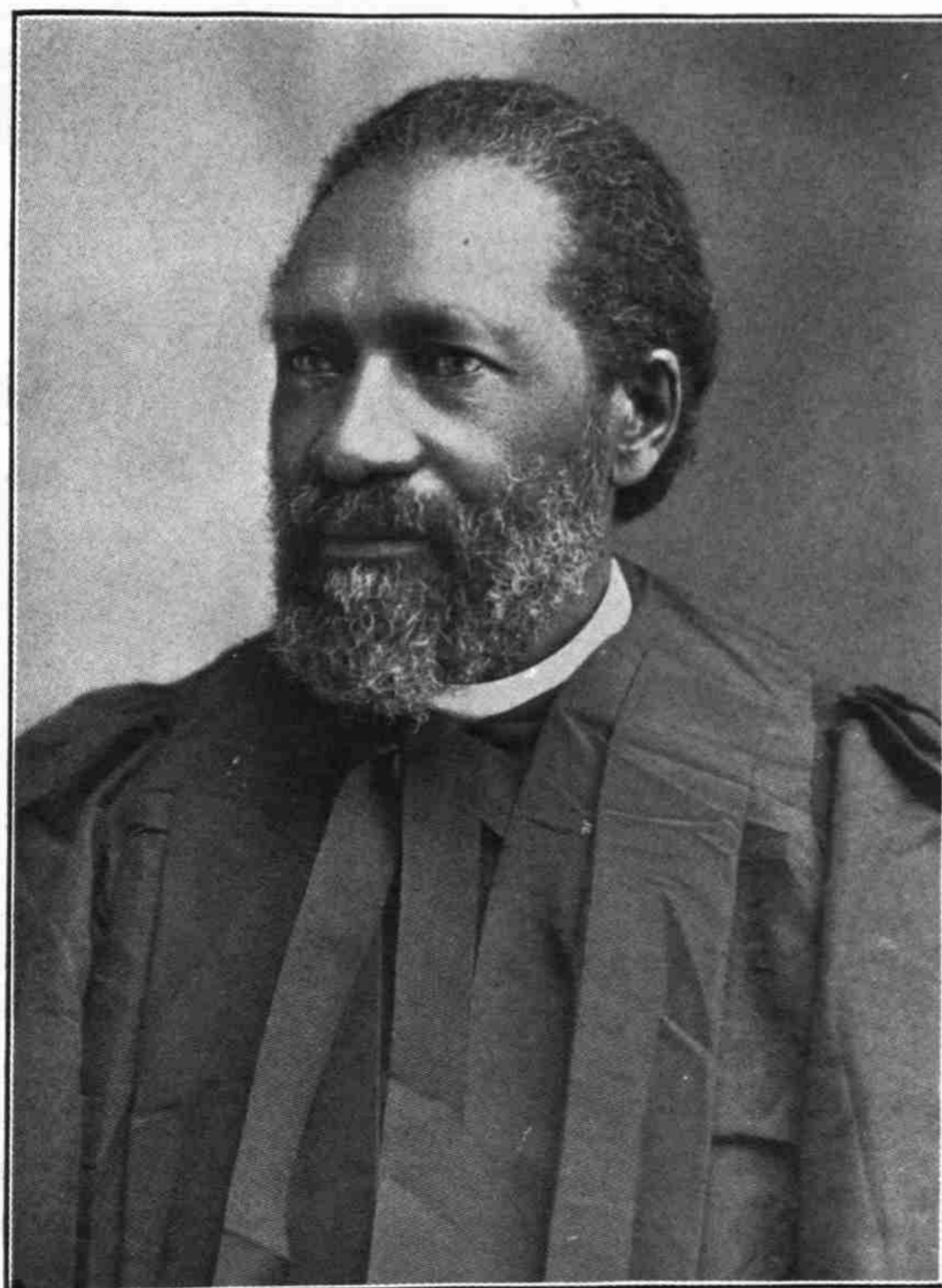
"He was the first one of his race appointed as a regular missionary to the Freedmen in the South" by reason of his appointment to North Carolina in 1863, and for a score of years his chief labors were in North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina. At one time he was assistant superintendent of Public Instruction in North Carolina. He was elected bishop in 1872. In 1881 he was a member of the Ecumenical Conference in London.

The late Rev. Dr. A. G. Haywood, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, said of Bishop Hood: "His ability, his eloquence, his zeal, and his usefulness have commanded the respect and confidence of the best people of both races. Bishop Hood entertains many broad and important views as to the wants and duties and future of his people. They should, he thinks, hang together, and he is persuaded that if his people are to succeed permanently and broadly in this country they must largely work out their own salvation."

## **Greatest Needs of the Negro Race**

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THERE are two forces in the universe, both of which are useful. There are two forces which keep the earth in its orbit while traveling around the sun: one of which keeps it from tumbling into the sun, the other keeps it from flying off into unlimited space. If we were all conservatives we should come to a standstill; if we were all radicals we should break our necks. What we need is reasonable thought, speech, and



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action. We shall make a great mistake if we judge the race by noisy pessimists.

We are sensible of the importance of schools of all grades. We know that we cannot have a complete man unless his head, hand, and heart are all trained. We need primary, grammar, and industrial schools; also colleges and universities; but we cannot have any of these doing the best work unless we have thoroughly trained teachers in charge. There is, therefore, plenty of work for all, and plenty of reasons why each one should be well supported in his particular work. Much has been done for the elevation of our people, but there is much more which must be done by ourselves. There is what is called "The Black Man's Burden."

We are not yet much affected by the incorporated monopolistic monstrosities which are causing the nation so many heart burnings, but we are up against gigantic evils which must be fought with all the energy that we can command. The twin evils—the using of intoxicating drinks as a beverage and tobacco

in the several forms—are the greatest evils with which we are affected. These lead to all other crimes and all forms of wickedness, degradation, waste, and woe. Whatever we can do to arrest the ravages of these evils is indispensable to the well-being of our people. Then there are minor evils which must be discouraged. We must discourage laziness and shiftlessness in our own children and our neighbors' children, and everything which leads to waste and hinders prosperity must be stopped. All should be taught that labor is honorable, and no honest person ought to think of living in this world without earning his living. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." How can a man be honest and true who undertakes to dodge this divine command?

The young people who waste their time in sight-seeing, performing social functions, and playing the "gentleman of leisure" when they have nothing to back such a course of life except what they get by their wicked wits or the indulgence of hard-working parents, ought not to be encouraged. In our condition we cannot afford to waste anything. The demand is *industry* and *frugality*. We should make all we can make honestly, and spend it only in useful ways.